(c) The US has lifted a number of unilateral restrictions imposed on India after the nuclear tests of May 1998. The US side has not indicated the time-frame for lifting the remaining restrictions.

Clinton's Visit to Pakistan

2952. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press report that various officials in Islamabad have claimed that President Clinton's visit to Pakistan imparted legitimacy to the army take over and Government's reaction thereto;

(b) if so, whether it was also claimed that the visit denoted US support for the Pakistani view on Kashmir;

(c) whether it has also been claimed that his visit would facilitate a durable settlement of the Kashmir dispute based on the wishes of the Kashmiri people; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) In his address to the people of Pakistan from Islamabad on March 25, 2000, President Clinton, *inter alia*, called for the restoration of civilian democratic governance in Pakistan and respect for the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir. He also denounced terrorism. Some Pakistani leaders, for their own purposes, have sought to give a slanted projection to President Clinton's straightforward message to the Government and people of Pakistan.

India seeks to establish trust and confidence with Pakistan, put in place a stable structure of cooperation and address all outstanding issues as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. Pakistan must cease its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism and vicious propaganda against India. There is no place for any third party involvement in India-Pakistan relations.

Use of Foreign Territories by North-East Militant Groups

2953. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government to prevent the use of territories of Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand by the ULFA, NSCN and other insurgents and militants of North-East; and

(b) how far Government succeeded in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The presence of Bodo/ ULFA militants on Bhutanese territory has been a subject of discussion with Bhutan. Both sides share concern on this issue. The Government of Bhutan has reiterated that it would not allow their territory to be misused against the interest of India. India and Bhutan remain in constant touch to find a solution to this issue and are cooperating with each other in this regard.

The Government of India has been regularly taking up various security-related issues including cross border terrorism and activities of North-East insurgent groups with Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanism existing between the two countries. The Bangladesh Government has stated that it would not allow undesirable elements to use its territory for activities prejudicial to the security interest of India.

The Government of Myanmar has been sensitised from time to time about our concern over the problem of terrorism and the activities of North-Eastern insurgents. The Government of Myanmar has assured us repeatedly that it would not allow any anti-India activities to be carried out from its soil.

The Government of India is regularly in touch with the Government of Thailand, has conveyed to them its security concerns and has been receiving cooperation from them.

Incidents of Forged Passports

2954. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many incidents of forged passport indicating Indian origin were reported in the last three years;

(b) whether there is any plan to introduce a fool proof system of issuing passports;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) whether there would be any fee hike in issuance of passports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The number of cases of Indians